


## Vaquero

PUBLIC ART COLLECTION IDENTIFICATION SUMMARY	
	<b>Number:</b> 0028
	<b>Artist:</b> Jimenez, Luis (1940 - )
	<b>Title:</b> Vaquero
	<b>Date:</b> 1979 - 1980, Installed 1982
	<b>Type:</b> Sculpture
	<b>Medium:</b> Sculpture: molded fiberglass, Base: cast concrete
	<b>Dimensions:</b> Sculpture: 16'6" x 10'6" x 5'6" Base: 12' x 5' x 6'
	<b>Foundry/Fabricator:</b> Artist
	<b>Location/Environment:</b> Moody Park, Outdoors
<b>Provenance:</b> Purchased with Community Development Funds in conjunction with a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts	

### Historical Background

#### Artist

Luis Jimenez, the son of Mexican immigrants, was born in El Paso, Texas in 1940. He was first introduced to utilizing welded steel, neon, and fiberglass while working in his father's sign business. Eventually, these materials became his chosen media.

Jimenez uses these contemporary, commercially used materials in his artistic explorations of American pop-cultural mythology and Chicano cultural themes. He is represented by Moody Gallery in Houston and currently lives in Hondo, New Mexico.

#### Physical Description

This sculpture, located in Moody Park, is the first of an edition of five and is part of a series of monumental works illustrating the history of the American West. *Vaquero* became a tribute to the cowboy - a tradition started by the vaqueros on Mexican *ranchos*. Another *Vaquero* in front of the Smithsonian Institution, in Washington D.C..

*Vaquero* is a vibrant, large-scale, molded fiberglass sculpture placed on top of a tall, cast concrete pedestal. The smooth surfaces of the piece are painted and laminated.

The sculpture depicts a brightly colored Mexican cowboy wearing a sombrero, bandanna, shirt, chaps and boots and is seated on a horse. He holds a pistol in his raised proper left hand and the reins of the bucking horse he is riding in his proper right hand. The horse's head is bent downward toward its feet, where a sculpted cactus is rooted between the front hooves. Its hind legs are raised in a kicking motion. The title and artist's name ( *VAQUERO/ LUIS JIMENEZ* ) appear on the proper left side of the sculpture's self base. The date and edition number ( *1980 1/5* ) are inscribed on the proper right side of the base.